



Teachers unions claim that they are acting in the best interests of American students by supporting teachers. In reality, however, teachers unions have consistently been corrupt, politically motivated organizations that have sold American children out.

What's at Stake

The majority of American 8th graders are **not proficient** in reading or math. But instead of addressing this massive failure of schools, teachers unions deflect blame, focus on leftist political pandering, and do nothing concrete to educate children.

Teachers Unions Put Politics Over Children

- Unions push leftist activism in schools by **implementing restorative justice** and by **removing or reducing police presence** in the name of “equity.” This amounts to a total absence of discipline in schools, leading to **increasingly violent and chaotic environments** for teachers and students alike.
- Unions also **donate** almost exclusively to the Democratic Party and its causes.

Teachers Unions Feel Threatened by School Choice

- School choice threatens union monopoly by allowing parents—who themselves are taxpayers—to take their tax dollars to schools that fit their children’s needs rather than being limited to government-assigned schools.

The Way Forward

Teachers Who Are Dissatisfied With Their Unions Are Able to Opt Out

- Teachers have the constitutional right to opt out of teachers unions. The nonprofit Freedom Foundation has **resources** available to help union workers opt out of their unions.

Parents Who Are Dissatisfied with Union-run Schools Should Look into School Choice Options in Their State

- The nonprofit organization EdChoice has an **online dashboard** that parents can use to find alternative schooling options in their states.

Policymakers Should Pursue Policies That Give Parents More Options

- In Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Utah, and West Virginia, parents are able to use **Education Savings Accounts**, which are government-funded accounts that parents can allocate toward their children’s K12 education.
- School choice programs **primarily help** the poorest children, which makes the policy far more equitable than the so-called “equitable policies” of unions.

Addressing Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p>Teachers unions support student-focused policies.</p>	<p>Teachers unions oppose school choice—including Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), voucher programs, and publicly funded charter schools—despite those programs and schooling options helping students get their educational needs met.</p>
<p>Teachers unions are apolitical organizations whose dues mostly go to helping teachers help students.</p>	<p>Teachers unions are highly political and make political donations, 94% of which go to Democrats.</p>
<p>Teachers unions protect teachers.</p>	<p>By promoting progressive restorative justice policies, teachers unions take away their members' abilities to discipline children effectively. In practice, this means that teachers are forced either to put up with poor classroom behavior and violence, or leave—and many teachers are choosing to leave, causing a teaching shortage of tens of thousands of vacancies across the country.</p>